

The Standard
No. 6 SAINT ANDREWS, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1856 [Vol. 23]

The Standard,

OR RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL RECORD.

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LAW RESPECTING NEWSPAPERS
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THE PROSPECTS OF 1856
Peace is not likely to herald in the New Year. Fortunately for mankind peace is always possible, but unfortunately, it is not always probable. If we survey, at the close of 1855, and the commencement of 1856, the indications—whether they be slight and dubious, and of the character which statesmen and diplomatists can understand and appreciate, or of the broader and more palpable cast which appeal to the comprehension of plain men, and of the multitude in all countries—we shall come to the conclusion that the nations are not likely to sheathe their swords until the war shall have assumed much larger proportions than it has yet exhibited. Proposals of peace have been submitted to the Emperor of Russia—not by the Allies, who rely upon their might no less than upon their right; but by that great and vacillating Power which detests the war, but detests still more strongly the necessity of taking part in it. The public mind of Europe is made up as to the answer that is to be expected. Russia will not accept the terms offered. It did not need the insulting interpretation of the famous 3rd Point of the Vienna Conference which has just been notified by the Russian government to its diplomatic agents, to convince the public mind that the Czar had not yet come to his senses; and that, even stronger and more continuous than he has yet suffered, and defeat at the north as well as at the south—at Cronstadt, as well as Sebastopol and Kinburn—were required to bring him to a humble and a wholesome state of mind, and to a sense of his true position. The Czar, Autocrat as he is, has probably as little, if not less, power to influence the decision of his country than a constitutional sovereign would, under similar circumstances, have in more fortunate countries. He is a tyrant, mighty to punish individuals, but not strong enough to warp from a foregone purpose the judgment and the pride of the classes who allow him to govern; and who conceal under the garb of his autocracy, a despotism more stringent than his own. Though the chief of the State, he is but part of a great machine—a machine on which he may safely ride, if he will conform himself to the law of its movements; but which will inevitably explode and cast him from it, if he attempts to give it too suddenly a direction contrary to that in which it has received its powerful, and long-enduring impetus. He has been beaten, and humiliated; but the defeat and the disgrace have not been sufficient to make resistance hopeless. He is still strong, and has many chances in his favor. They may not be of a nature to promise him the ultimate victory; but, as he speculates not simply upon the strength of his armies for aggression or resistance, but on the chapter of accidents—on the disunion of his foes—on the conversion of neutrals into allies—on secret friends into avowed supporters, and upon the events of Asia and America, no less than upon those of Europe—he can count to try the fortune of battle yet a little longer.

The world can scarcely blame, though it may deplore this policy. It is not alone necessity—but, considered in a Russian point of view, it is worldly wisdom which dictates to the Czar the rejection of the terms which Austria has offered. By far the greater portion of the blame of his refusal must be transferred from his shoulders to those of the two great Sovereigns of Germany. Had they been bold and wise—had they cordially united their armies with those of the Allies—had they told the Czar, in language not to be mistaken that his refusal of peace would involve intermediate war with them—the Czar would have had in the eyes of his subjects, and in those of the world, the excuse and the pretext for that dignified and timely surrender which he now wants. Had they been honest, and aided with their strong right hands the cause which to which they gave the cowardly support of their false words and their secret consciences, peace might have been long ago restored. Upon Prussia and Austria lie the guilt and the responsibility—a guilt that will not surely be exacted. On Prussia, more especially still the shame and the crime of all the unnecessary misery and ruin that will yet track the progress of this devastating war. In times of national perplexity and peril, the weakest King is the worst, and infinitely more to be reprobated for the mischief he causes than the boldest of the bad Sovereigns who ever disgraced a throne. For this reason the avenger of blood will haunt the path of Berlin and Potsdam.

The Sovereigns of Prussia and Austria both play at the game of chance, and are quite as much addicted to it as Russia. They would like Russia to conquer her opponents. They hate England for a variety of reasons; and they dread the Emperor Napoleon far more than they dread the Czar. The supremacy of Great Britain is the supremacy of the popular element in Europe; and that

supremacy is to them revolution, dismemberment, segregation, and perhaps dethronement; while the supremacy of the Czar is the triumph of their system of government, and a renewed lease of dominion and splendor. Were England thundering at Cronstadt and besieging St. Petersburg, with the certainty of driving the Russian Government into the safe impenetrability of Moscow, they might perhaps pluck up courage, jointly or severally, to notify to Russia that persistence in the war would array Germany on the winning side. It will be the duty and the policy of the Allies to drive them to this extremity. Their offers will then be met with the fatal cry of "Too late!" and they and their subjects will have to settle an account which will greatly edify, but not otherwise concern, the people of this country.

From all these indications, and from every other that we can see or hear, war, deadly war, seems to be the prospect of Europe during the coming year. We wish it were otherwise. But, reliant on justice from the guilt of ambition and self-seeking, with the pursuit of causes and of motives, the great British nation will accept the struggle with all its perils and responsibilities. Yet if the ruling classes amongst us do not, accept in the same spirit; if they do not awake to the consciousness that it is no child's play in which the State is engaged—and that on our success or failure, depend not simply our credit and our honor, but our rank among the nations, and our very existence as one of the leading powers of the world—there will be in this country, as well as in others, a heavy account to settle between the people and those who have thrust themselves into, or been allowed to assume the offices of Government. We must not only cease to play a merely secondary part in military affairs, but we must prove ourselves to be what we were from the days of Blake to those of Nelson—the first and greatest naval Power in the world;—second to none in military prowess, and superior to all in maritime daring and dominion. The nation must win laurels both in Asia and Baltic, or it will be roused to exact a heavy penalty from the incompetency, the obstinacy, or the treachery that shall impede or prevent its triumphs. It does not begrudge its blood or treasure in a cause that it feels to be just, and in a conflict that it feels to be inevitable; but being itself in earnest, it expects that those who govern in its name shall be in earnest also.

BODY STEALING.—The vault of the Cemetery at Point aux Trembles, District of Montreal, in which the bodies of deceased persons are deposited in the winter season, was broken open on the 1st inst., and the bodies of two females stolen therefrom. The keeper of the grounds on going to the cemetery on Wednesday morning, found the fragments of the coffins and the shrouds lying scattered on the ground; where the robbers, in their haste, had left them. One of the bodies was that of the late Madame Marceux, sister of Madame Alex. Mercier, of Montreal; the funeral of this lady took place about a fortnight ago. The other body was deposited in the vault last Thursday week. [Quebec Morning Chronicle, January 7th.]

Mr. John Lawrence Bazier, in the Louisville Times, offers to bet from \$5,000 to \$50,000 that he can jump five feet further on a dead level than any man in Kentucky three feet further than any man in the United States—one foot further than any man in the world—or that he can stand flat footed upon the earth and leap a brick wall fifteen feet high, and four feet thick.

THE RELIGIOUS PASTOR.—It is related of Rowland Hill, celebrated as an eccentric London preacher, that in a sermon once preached by him, he attempted to illustrate the superficial and unvarnished character of all goodness which does not proceed from a pure heart. "My brethren," so the preacher is reported to have discoursed, "can imagine a girl which of course is susceptible of no influence from the grace of God, to take it into her head that she will set up for a fine lady. So pass, goes to the mantu-maker's and the lace draper's, and the mercer's and purchases a proportion of silks, ribbons, and lace, and by the assistance of maid and hemstitcher, she is arranged to suit her deceit and to the delight of her gentry, and the satisfaction of her self complacency. With a neat cap on her head, her fellow ladyship is seated at the table, and with a winning smile, places her little velvet hand on the silver tea urn, when all of a sudden, a mouse pops into the room and attracts the eyes of her ladyship. Like sleeping gunpowder when spark falls into it, her blood is instantly on fire—she leaps over the china, which rattles on the floor, shivers to pieces behind her—darts toward her little victim, pounces on it, and the velvet amethysts of those pretty paws proves to be only a shield for sharp instruments of torture. And thus it is, my brethren, with the external good-

ness of an unwearied sinner. Let temptation appear, and the old Adam immediately shows his true nature.

PUBLIC MEETING.
Pursuant to notice by the High Sheriff, in compliance with a requisition previously addressed to him by a large number of the most respectable inhabitants of this city, a public meeting was held at the Court House yesterday, at noon, to consider the propriety of petitioning the Legislature to repeal the Prohibitory Liquor Law.

The High Sheriff took the Chair, and requested George Blatch, Esq., to act as Secretary.

The Circuit Court being in Session, the Court Room could not be used for the occasion; and the Common Council Chamber (the use of which had been kindly granted by the proper authority,) being far too small, the Sheriff very properly decided that the meeting should be an out-door meeting; the speakers speaking from the step platform in front of the door; the meeting having been convened to assemble at the Court House, and therefore being legally held either within or without the walls. In fact, there being at least from two to three thousand persons present, no room in the whole building could possibly have held them. Orders were given by the High Sheriff, that no persons should be permitted to assemble within the building; but to the amazement of the lovers of fair play and free discussion, it was discovered that long before the hour of meeting, (even as early as 10 o'clock,) the High Constable, Mr. Geo. Stockford, in defiance of these orders, had allowed the City Court Room to be densely packed with several hundreds of the Sons of Temperance who were evidently well organized for combined operations.—At 12 o'clock, the High Sheriff opened the meeting, by reading the Requisition addressed to him; immediately after which, the Hon. Charles Simonds, (formerly for many years Speaker of the House of Assembly,) moved the first Resolution, which was seconded by William Jack, Esq., Barrister-at-law; and is as follows:—

"Whereas the act to prevent the importation, manufacture and traffic in intoxicating liquors, which came into operation on the first day of January instant, is arbitrary, unjust and oppressive in its enactments, and is in consequence creating hostile feeling between different portions of the people of New Brunswick, thus disturbing the quiet and well-being of society;

And whereas, in its operation, the said act is ruinous to many of Her Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, and is utterly inconsistent with the privileges of a free people;

Therefore Resolved, as the opinion of this meeting, that every constitutional means should be used to procure the repeal of the said act, and the passing of an act to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors, and prevent the abuse thereof, by a well considered, judicious and stringent licence system."

The mover and seconder of this Resolution supported it, by eloquent, temperate and convincing speeches; and if the question had then been immediately taken, it was evident from the demonstrated feelings of the people, that it would have been carried by an overwhelming majority, of at least 10 to 1.

All opposition, however, was at hand; and Mr. J. W. Lawrence came forward to move a counter-resolution.—Immediately upon Mr. Lawrence mounting the stand, the whole body of "the Sons" packed in the City Court Room, (who had been at the same time holding a farcical and illegal opposition meeting of their own body, making speeches and passing Resolutions of their own,) sallied out to sustain the opposition outside, being accommodated for the occasion by passing through Mr. Stockford's private apartments into the back yard, and so round to the front. Immediately upon this accession of strength being perceptible, Messrs. J. W. Lawrence, James Porter and Nathan S. DeMill commenced talking against time, with the evident intent of wearing out the patience of the audience and so diminishing the hostile ranks. The ruse perfectly succeeded; some 500 or 600 at least of the supporters of the first Resolution, gradually walked off to their dinners, rather than listen to the fanciful rant and absurdity of their opponents, while the "Sons" (about two-thirds, or at least half of whom were boys, and young men under age,) maintained their ground, to clamour and outvote if possible.

Mr. Lawrence moved the following:—**a**—**amendment** to the Resolution; and was followed in support by Messrs. Porter and De Mill, the former of whom was the seconder of the Resolution. The speeches of these parties, being evidently against time, were of the most rambling, irrelevant and incoherent nature; and were repeatedly greeted by groans and derision from the multitude.

"Resolved, That in the opinion of this Meeting the Prohibitory Liquor Law deserves a fair and impartial trial by the country, and therefore it is not expedient to peti-

tion the Legislature for its repeal."

In speaking to this amendment, Mr. Porter very absurdly said, that as time was an out-door Meeting, he considered it was not the Meeting convened by the Sheriff, and that therefore he was merely speaking on his own authority, and had no right to speak at all.

The High Sheriff very properly rebuked Mr. Porter, by saying that it was his (the Sheriff's) right and prerogative to call the Meeting wherever he pleased; that he had called it at the Court House, (not in the Court House,) and therefore could hold it either within or without the walls as he pleased; and that, as the Supreme Court was sitting in the Court Room, and there was no other portion of the building wherein the Meeting could be held, he had used his discretion and unquestionable right in holding it out of doors; and that Mr. Porter or any body else who spoke there, spoke to the Meeting legally convened by him as Sheriff, and had a full right to be heard.

The speeches being ended, the High Sheriff took the question on the amendment, first; and from the state of confusion outside it being impossible to ascertain the vote correctly, the question was then also taken on the original Resolution; the voters on both sides being divided into separate parties to the right and left.

The Sheriff then declared, that the several divisions appeared to him to be equal, (that it was impossible for him to decide between them;) and finding therefore, that the subject of this Meeting could not be obtained in that way, he declared the Meeting dissolved, leaving matters exactly in statu quo, without arriving at any determination. [New Brunswick.]

WAKING UP THE HEARERS.
One of the old divines said, "He that sleeps in the place of worship is no better for the time than a corpse, at whose funeral the minister is preaching." And another of that worthy fraternity remarks, "that sleepers in religious assemblies are public nuisances, and ought to be driven out from the place they so much disgrace."

Several centuries ago, old Bishop Aymer, seeing his congregation pretty generally asleep, took his Hebrew Bible from his pocket, and read a chapter, which roused attention, when the old minister sharply rebuked them for sleeping when they might have understood him, and listening when they knew not a word he said.

Of the witty Dr. South, it is said, that preaching before King Charles, he saw that potentate asleep; he stopped short, and in a loud and altered tone of voice, three times called out, "Lord Lunderbaird," his lordship stood up and looked at the preacher, who addressed him with great composure. "My Lord, I am sorry to interrupt your repose, but I must beg of you not to snore so loud, lest you should wake the king."

A clergyman at Exeter, in England, named Nichol, once saw several auditors asleep, and said, "The silence of the preacher, and the movement among the hearers, woke the worshippers; magistrates, and they stood up. The clergyman then rose, and said, 'The sermon is not yet finished, and now you are awake, I hope you will hearken more diligently.'

Many years ago, we heard an eccentric Baptist minister cry out in a sleeping congregation, particularly addressing one of his members: "Brother Thomas Smith, if you don't wake up, I shall call you by name." There was no more sleeping in that house that day.

Andrew Fuller, one Sabbath afternoon saw the people during the singing of the hymn before the sermon, dozing themselves for a comfortable nap; and taking the Bible, he beat it against the side of the pulpit, making a great noise. Attention being excited, he said, "I am often afraid that I preach you to sleep, but it can't be my fault, to-day, for you are asleep before I have begun."

And finally, we have heard of an old minister in Kentucky, who purchased a whistle, and when his hearers went to sleep as usual, he emitted from it a very shrill sound. All were awake, and stood up to hear him say, "You are a set of smart specimens of humanity, and yet, as he slowly gazed at his wondering people, 'when I preach the gospel, you go to sleep; when I play the fool, you are awake, and look like a rash of hornets with a pole in their nose!'"

A gentle reader, accept a hint, and keep AWAKE.

TONGUE FROZEN FAST.—In Cincinnati, on the 10th, one boy induced another to put his tongue against a fluted iron lamp post; the thermometer at the time indicating a temperature far below zero. The tongue stuck fast, of course, and the poor boy suffered great agony. Several persons endeavored to release him, but in vain. Matters were in this situation for over five minutes,

when a gentleman named Taylor, went into the Telegraph House, and brought some hot water and whiskey, with which he bathed the tongue of the suffering boy, finally disengaging about one-half, leaving the other half sticking to the post, where it remained for the balance of the day, a warning to youngsters how they recklessly tick cold iron in freezing weather. The tickless boy was taken to his home in extreme agony.

THE LIQUOR CASE.—In Fredericton.—We learn from the New Brunswick's Freedom correspondent, that in the case of Thomas and another, charged before Mayor Needham on Wednesday last with violating the Prohibitory Liquor Law, the Mayor, after taking some time for consideration, gave his decision on last Saturday morning. The decision was in writing, but will, doubtless, be published. He acknowledged that he was wrong in issuing summonses and subpoenas, and that the Counsel for Defence were right in their construction of the law;—that the persons giving information, must do so on oath,—that it must be positive, and that no person can be compelled to go forward and give evidence against his will.—He therefore dismissed the cases.—[Courtier.]

THE MONROE LIQUOR CASE.—We understand says the New Brunswick's Freedom correspondent, that the conviction under the Liquor Law, which was obtained before the Mayor of Moncton, against Mr. James Harris, was yesterday (Monday) brought up before His Honor Mr. Justice Ritchie, on an application by the defendant for a writ of "Certiorari" in order to quash the same.—The case was argued before His Honor by Mr. Thomson, for the defendant, and by Mr. Kerr, in support of the conviction. The Judge, after consulting with His Honor Judge Packer, decided that the conviction could not be sustained, and ordered the writ to issue.—[16.]

EMIGRATION.—The London correspondent of the National Intelligencer says:—The emigration from Great Britain and Ireland to the United States during the year 1855, by vessels registered and inspected by Government was 48,772 Irish, 19,524 English, 10,629 Scotch, 5141 principally German, 546 cabin passengers. Total, 84,697.

The Liverpool Advertiser says:—A much greater exodus may be expected in 1856, extensive preparations having been made to facilitate emigration from Germany on a larger scale than has yet been attempted, the great bulk of which will pass through Liverpool.

The contractors in the English army have given a bill for £300,000 a year. Some of them clear £30,000 a year. One man who furnished fodder for horses made the sum of £233,000 the first year of his contract.

LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.
New Orleans, Jan. 25
The steamer Daniel Webster arrived in day from San Juan, with California dates to the 5th inst. She reports that the Star of the West sailed from San Juan for New York with \$500,000 in treasure.

A severe shock of an earthquake was experienced at San Francisco on the 12th inst. Mining news is encouraging. Rich diggings had been discovered on the American River.

Mr. Chase, the American Consul at Lhasa, is dead.

Trade at San Francisco dull. Breadstuffs quiet.

Oregon, Dec. 20.—Nothing has been heard of Col. Kinney's party, which had gone to attack the Indians at Walla Walla, Nicaragua, Jan. 22.—Walker receives as occasion by the arrival of every steamer, and has now quite an effective force.

I see better without wine and spectacles than when I use both, said Sidney Smith.

"I'll be with you, as crack," as the right-hand, said to the target.

"Patrick, when will water stop running down hill?" "When it gets to the bottom, sure, you spalpeen," said Pat.

An advertisement lately appeared in the Dublin Evening Post, headed "Iron Bedssteads and bedding." We suppose, according to the latter term, that the benefits of these iron bedssteads are—

A Porter.—Birk told Garrick at Hampton that all his things were hot. "Indeed," replied Garrick, "then, what do you think you of a better cold day?"

It has been beautifully said, that "the veil which covers the face of futurity is given by the hand of mercy." Soft not to raise that veil, therefore, for sadness might be seen to shade the brow that had arrayed in shades of gladness.

"The man who wants a better life, desires to break; and he who would spend half a day in trying to sponge a notice gratis out of an editor, is in the state of social ethics, two degrees lower than a grown up theatrical check beggar.—Seneca